**How to Play Dreidel**

Filename: j0440269.jpg
Keywords: dreidels, Fotolia, games ...
File Size: 161 KB
Provided by: Fotolia.com

There are four Hebrew letters on the dreidel. They are:

Nun (נ) Gimmel (ג) Hey (ה) Shin (ש)

Together they form a Hebrew sentence:

נס גדול היה שם

*Nes gadol hayah sham*

A Great Miracle Happened There!

In Israel, the “Shin” ש is replaced by the letter “Pay” פ which stands for the Hebrew word “Here” (instead of “there”):

פה נס גדול היה

*Nes gadol hayah po*

A Great Miracle Happened Here!

**The simple rules for how to play the game of Dreidel:**

Each player gets 10 play pieces (this can include pennies, raisins, almonds, M&Ms, pieces of gelt, paper clips, etc) and each person puts one of their pieces in the middle. Then everyone goes around and spins the dreidel. Depending on what letter the dreidel lands on, is how many pieces one collects from the middle. When the dreidel stops on Nun, everything remains the same, (Nun=nothing). When the dreidel lands on Gimmel, you collect the whole pile, and everyone has to put one into the middle again. When the dreidel lands on Hey, you get half of the pile, (Hey=half). Finally, when the dreidel lands on Shin, or if you are playing with an Israeli dreidel and it lands on Pay, you put one in. The game continues until one person is left with all of the play pieces.